

HARRY JOHNSON SMEAD

Harry Johnson Smead was born June 5, 1881 in Washington, Indiana; a small town near Vincennes, Indiana. He was descended from William Smead who came to Boston, Massachusetts in 1625. His father, Franklin Smead, specialized in growing peaches and pears and his fruit was famous all over the state for its fine quality and brought highest prices on the market. In addition he raised stock and cattle.

When Harry was thirteen or fourteen he refused to attend school regularly, so his father let him work on the farm and hire out to other farmers. When he was about twenty, he and two other young men went to Minnesota to farm. They used money loaned to them by his father to finance the venture. They were fairly successful but decided to return to Indiana after a few years.

In 1905 Harry married Florence Josephine Isenogle. She was one of his school classmates. Florence was born January 11, 1883 in Washington, Indiana. She was the only child of Gideon and Ione Van Trees Isenogle.

The young couple bought a farm with Mr. Isenogle and were soon on their own. Mary Florence was born November 25, 1906 and twin boys Roscoe and Charles Schudder on May 28, 1909. Roscoe died at age two and one half months.

In 1907 Harry's parents bought an orange grove and moved to Pomona, California. They encouraged their son to sell the farm and go west. In 1910 the young couple sold their farm, all of the equipment and much of their household goods and took the train to California along with their two children and Mr. & Mrs. Isenogle.

Harry was able to buy a mature orange and lemon grove on West Cienega Ave. in San Dimas with a two story house on it. This house was located between the 210 Freeway and Lone Hill Ave. and contained inside plumbing but there was no electricity or gas. This would all come later. Cooking was done on a wood stove and all water for washing clothes, bathing and kitchen use was heated on the stove. Transportation was by horse and buggy or wagon. Harry was quick to learn citrus culture and was soon making friends with neighboring ranchers and becoming a part of this growing community. He did not have the formal education of some of his contemporaries; but was thrifty, a good manager and wise in his investments.

Harry was one of the first commercial sprayers in the Pomona Valley, starting his business in 1913. This was with a team of horses and the spray rig mounted on a wagon. Later his equipment was mounted on trucks. He developed the first overhead spray nozzle for spraying from a tower mounted on the spray rig. He was a loyal citizen of San Dimas and his country. Among his many activities in San Dimas were:

1. Director of the San Dimas Lemon Association
2. Director of the San Dimas Water Company
3. Member of the San Dimas school board
4. Master of San Dimas Masonic Lodge # 428
5. Member of First Christian Church and also its board
6. Salesman for Pacific Guano Fertilizer and Peerless Spray Chemical Company (retired from this at age 80)
7. Member of the Pomona Lawn Bowling Club

Harry;s wife of 57 years was a devoted companion, homemaker and loving mother. She supported him in all his activities; business, social and community. After the children were older she became more active in church, Eastern Star and San Dimas Women's Club which she was a charter member.

Harry sold the Cienega ranch and home in 1931 and moved to a ten acre citrus grove on the corner of Walnut and Gladstone. The family lived here until 1955 when he sold the grove but retained a lot on Gladstone where he built a small house.

Florence died in 1962 age 79 years

Harry died in 1968 age 87 years

All of their children graduated from San Dimas Elementary School and Bonita Union High School. Their children were as follows:

Mary Florence - died short of her 19th birthday from complications following a goiter operation.

Roscoe - died age two and one half months in Washington, Indiana.

Charles - attended Thornes Business College, worked in citrus industry, served in World War II and worked at Standard Oil in Buena Park until his death in 1972.

Helen - became a licensed beauty operator, married a Navy man during World War II, lived in Long Beach where she was active in Eastern Star and her church until her death in 1984.

- Stella - graduated from Santa Barbara State Teacher's College, taught school three years in Santa Maria, then married a Pomona man. Her activities were homemaking, P. T. A., church and the Pomona Ebel Club.
- Pearl - graduated from Santa Barbara State Teacher's College, taught kindergarten, married a Santa Barbara pharmacist. Her activities were P. T. A., church, Santa Barbara Women's club and her husbands store.
- William - married a San Dimas girl, served in the Sea Bee's during World War II, used the G. I. Bill of Rights to attend and graduate from Pepperdine University, taught in the Ontario, California school system, served as a Junior High Principal and retired from an administrative position in the Ontario, California school system.
- Anna - died during the World War I flu epidemic at about one year old.
- Dorothy - married a Los Angeles County Fireman. Her activities were homemaking, girl scout leader, church worker and a charter member of the San Dimas Women's Club.
- Harry J., Jr. - married a La Verne girl, served in the army during World War II. He was a carpenter, helping to build many homes, churches, schools and public buildings in the Pomona Valley before his death in 1988.

Betty - married a Navy man during World War II. She was a homemaker, active in P. T. A. and church work.

Mildred - married a Navy man during World War II. She was a homemaker, active in P. T. A. and church work.

Descendants living in San Dimas at the present time are:

Gary Kenneth Smead - grandson

Gary Philip Smead - great grandson

Complied by: Stella Smead Weigle

and

Wanda Miliken Smead
(Mrs. Harry J. Smead, Jr.)

Dated October 15, 1993